

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /074 W

----- 091139

R 021013Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3652

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR (SINGAPORE, EGYPT)

SUBJ: SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO EGYPT

1. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ALI SAMRR SAFOUAT, MAIN ITEM DISCUSSED DURING PRESIDENT SADAT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW WAS EGYPT'S RATIONALE IN ACCEPTING INTERIM AGREEMENT ON SINAI. PM LEE AGREED FULLY, AND PLEASED EGYPTIANS BY MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT (SINGAPORE HAS NOT BEEN NOTED FOR TAKING HIGH PROFILE POSITIONS ON ISSUES WHICH HAVE GENERATED CONTROVERSY ELSEWHERE, AND DR. SAFOUAT WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT PM LEE HAD CHOSEN TO SPEAK OUT ON SINAI AGREEMENT).

2. DR. SAFOUAT WAS AWARE OF ONLY ONE OTHER ITEM ON THE AGENDA, NAMELY INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND EGYPT. HE SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD USE SINGAPORE AS MODEL IN SETTING UP FREE PORTS, FIRST IN PORT SAID AND POSSIBLY LATER ON IN SUEZ. EGYPT WOULD ALSO DRAW ON SINGAPORE'S EXPERIENCES IN LOW-COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND IN HOTEL CONSTRUCTION. ON LATTER POINT, DR. SAFOUAT NOTED THAT EGYPT HOPED TO EXPAND ITS TOURIST TRADE CONSIDERABLY BUT LACKED ADEQUATE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

3. COMMENT: APART FROM SOME YET TO BE REALIZED ECONOMIC GAINS
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FOR SINGAPORE, IT APPEARS THAT PM LEE'S PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

IN EGYPT WAS TO IMPROVE HIS INTERNATIONAL STATURE BY APPEARING
TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. HOLDRIDGE

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